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Changing marital lifestyles. Social changes have had mixed effects on the quality of family life in the United States. Far fewer married couples are living in poverty today than a decade ago, but because of the sharp increase in separation, divorce, and unwed motherhood far more of the families are single-parent families, 40 percent of which are in poverty. Far more women have acquired sufficient training to become active participants in the labor force, but a growing proportion of the economically independent women are now postponing marriage or have dissolved their marriages by divorce.

The burden of childbearing and childrearing has been diminishing as the birth rate has fallen, but one in every five children are growing up without the benefit of having two parents in the home--and one in every three are not living with both of their natural parents who are in their first marriage.

Most of the people who become divorced eventually remarry--about four of every five--but the transition period between marriages is generally very stressful. Many of those who remarry are far more satisfied in their remarriage than they were in their first marriage, but close to half of those who remarry after divorce become divorced once again.

Variations in marriage and divorce. Differences in divorce by educational level can be analyzed to special advantage if the age group 35 to 54 (or some other intermediate age group) is featured. These persons are old enough so that few additional marriages and divorces will occur in the highly educated segment who generally marry rather late, and yet the group excludes elderly persons, most of whose marriage experiences occurred several decades ago.

Some of the conclusions about differences in the level of divorce by education include the following for those 35 to 54: (1) the long-standing inverse relation between educational level and proportion divorced is now disappearing. In particular, the level of divorce for college-educated men (as a whole) has risen to the level of those with no college education (as a whole), whereas it was much lower in 1960; (2) the highest proportion divorced continues to be found among women with graduate school training (9.4 percent in 1976, up from 7.5 percent in 1973), whereas the lowest proportion among women is still that for women with exactly 4 years of college (6.5 percent in 1976, up from only 4.4 percent in 1970); (3) the greater likelihood of men than women to remarry is particularly evident in the following fact: the proportion of persons 35 to 54 at the graduate school level who remarried after divorce is half again as high for men (72 percent) as for women (48 percent); (4) projections of the proportion of persons who may eventually end their first marriage in divorce vary substantially according to educational level. The results of a study based on the

Census Bureau's Current Population Survey for June 1975 show that, for both men and women born in the 1940's, the life-time proportion of persons who will end their first marriage in divorce is expected to be highest (about one-half) for those with an incomplete college education. The lowest proportion for men is that for those with graduate school training, and the lowest for women is that for those with exactly 4 years of college (about three-tenths); and (5) currently divorced women included twice as large a proportion as the still-married women who remained childless (13 percent versus 6.6 percent) and twice as large a proportion with only one child (18 percent versus 9 percent).

Among women in 1970 whose first marriage occurred in 1965 to 1969, the proportion with a premarital birth was nearly twice as high for those divorced by 1970 as for those still in their first marriage (17.1 percent versus 9.6 percent). Also, the divorced had a larger proportion who had a child conceived before marriage but born after marriage (24 percent versus 21 percent). Moreover, according to 1975 data, among divorced women who remarried, 11 percent of all their children were born in between divorce and remarriage. For Blacks this proportion was 14 percent, and for women with family income below \$10,000 it was also 14 percent.

Living arrangements. Data for 1976 for the 2.8 million currently divorced men show that nearly half of them (46 percent) live in an apartment or house all alone. Another 20 percent of the divorced men live in with relatives (probably usually their parents) and 14 percent maintain a home of their own with some relatives present (but not always their own children). A small proportion of the remainder (5 percent of all divorced men) maintain a home that they share with only one other person, an unrelated woman; this figure is 8 percent for divorced men under 35 years of age.

Among the 4.4 million divorced women, one-half (52 percent) maintain their own apartment or house with relatives present, often one or more children. Another 27 percent live entirely alone, and 1 percent share their own house or apartment with only one other person, an unrelated man (2 percent for those under 30).

Some figures for comparison: 4 percent of men in their late twenties who had never married share their living quarters with an unrelated woman, as do 1.4 percent of single women of that age; and 2 percent of widowers and 1 percent of widows were reported in 1976 as sharing their house or apartment with an unrelated person of the opposite sex.

More information on divorce and remarriage classified by number and age of children and by age of women at the time of divorce may be found in a new Census Bureau publication entitled, "Marriage, Divorce, Widowhood, and Remarriage by Family Characteristics."